

July 13, 2006

Mike Garvison
Skamania County Canvassing Board
PO Box 790
Stevenson WA 98648-0790

Dear Mike:

In accordance with RCW 29A.04.570, the State Election Certification and Training Program conducted a comprehensive review of election procedures in Skamania County during the 2006 February Special Election.

The RCW also requires a follow-up visit prior to the next primary or general election to verify that the county has taken the steps necessary to correct the changes recommended in the review report. The State Election Certification and Training Program conducted its follow-up visit on July 7, 2006.

As indicated below, the reviewer made a number of recommendations in the initial review report. The Skamania County Auditor's Office staff provided responses to the recommendations at the follow-up review.

1. *The reviewer recommended that a voter not be cancelled unless a request is provided in writing.*

The Skamania County Auditor's Office reported that the office practice has been changed to only cancel a voter when a request has been received in writing.

2. *The reviewer recommended that in future notices of election, language should be included to inform voters that only applicants registering for the first time in Washington are eligible to register during the 15 to 30-days prior to an election.*

As there has not been an election in Skamania County since the review was conducted, Skamania County has not had the opportunity to implement this recommendation. However, office staff reported that the recommended language will be included in the notice of election for the primary.

3. *The reviewer recommended that a numbered seal and seal log be used for documenting access to the ballot drop-box located in the Auditor's Office lobby. In addition, that the box should be placed on a counter closer to staff and further from the door or the box should be*

secured to the counter it currently occupies to prevent somebody from grabbing the box and walking out of the door.

The Skamania County Auditor's Office indicated that this is an area of work in progress and that security procedures will be in place prior to the primary election.

4. *The reviewer recommended that the Skamania County Canvassing Board's policy and procedures manual be updated, signed, and adopted to reflect current law.*

The Skamania County Auditor's Office reported that the Canvassing Board's manual is in the process of being updated.

5. *The reviewer recommended that a ballot box with a clasp be used with a numbered seal and seal log for mobile ballot boxes and all ballots awaiting a canvassing board decision.*

As there has not been an election in Skamania County since the review was conducted, Skamania County has not had the opportunity to implement this recommendation. However, office staff reported that the recommendation will be implemented prior to the primary election.

6. *The reviewer recommended that the registration oath be added to any other office forms requesting a voter's signature for the purposes of voter registration.*

The Skamania County Auditor's Office provided the reviewer with a copy of the revised form that includes the applicable oath for a voter to sign.

7. *The reviewer recommended that an application form for a voter to request and receive a hospital absentee ballot be created.*

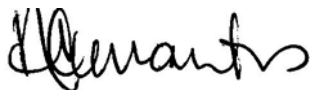
The Skamania County Auditor's Office is in the process of creating such a form.

8. *The reviewer recommended that a form including all of the required pieces of information be developed for a voter to request a special absentee ballot.*

The Skamania County Auditor's Office is in the process of creating such a form.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 360.902.4165.

Sincerely,



Amber Cervantes, Program Specialist
Certification and Training Program, OSOS

C: Paul J. Pearce, Skamania County Commissioner
Peter S. Banks, Skamania County Prosecuting Attorney
Karen Flynn, Chair, Election Administration and Certification Board